

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to for the reasons set forth in the Official Action. In response, a Request for Approval to Amend the Drawings and Submission of Corrected Sheets of the Drawings are being filed concurrently herewith. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the objection to the drawings has been overcome.

Specification

The specification has been amended to place the same in better form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

Claim Status

Claims 5 through 14 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 through 4 have been canceled. Claims 5, 8, 10, and 11 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. Claims 12 through 14 have been presented to accord Applicants an additional scope of protection commensurate with the disclosure. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 5, 12, and 14 remain the only independent claims pending in the application.

Allowed Claims

It is acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 5 through 11 are allowable over the art of record. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments presented herein to Claims 5, 8, 10, and 11 do not affect their allowability.

Claim Objection

It is also acknowledged with appreciation that Claims 3 and 4 are merely objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The cancellation of Claims 3 and 4 makes the objection moot.

Section 102 Rejection

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,789,259 (Katayanagi). The rationale underlying the rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Section 103 Rejection

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katayanagi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,681 (Aoki). The rationale underlying the rejection is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Rejections

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and solely to expedite prosecution, Claims 1 through 4 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections are moot and further comment thereon is not necessary.

Newly Presented Independent Claims 12 and 14

Claim 12 has been formulated on the basis of amended Claim 5 and recites “a permitting means” including an overrunning clutch feature recited in Claim 3. Claim 14 also has been formulated on the basis of amended Claim 5 but does not include the feature of the second clutch, which can be switched from a turned-off state to a turned-on state. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 12 and 14 also are allowable over the art of record.

Dependent Claims

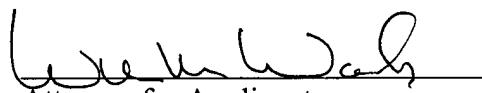
Claims 6 through 11 and 13 depend either directly or indirectly from one of Claims 5 and 12 and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicant's invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the claims on file are allowable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,



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